



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 09-021

BY SENATOR(S) Foster, Bacon, Boyd, Brophy, Cadman, Carroll M., Gibbs, Groff, Harvey, Heath, Hodge, Hudak, Isgar, Keller, Kester, King K., Kopp, Lundberg, Mitchell, Morse, Newell, Penry, Renfroe, Romer, Sandoval, Scheffel, Schultheis, Schwartz, Shaffer B., Spence, Tapia, Tochtrop, Veiga, White, Williams;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McGihon, Acree, Apuan, Baumgardner, Benefield, Bradford, Casso, Court, Curry, Ferrandino, Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gardner B., Gardner C., Gerou, Green, Hullinghorst, Judd, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., King S., Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Marostica, May, McCann, McFadyen, McKinley, McNulty, Merrifield, Middleton, Miklosi, Murray, Nikkel, Pace, Peniston, Pommer, Primavera, Priola, Rice, Riesberg, Roberts, Ryden, Scanlan, Schafer S., Sonnenberg, Soper, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Tipton, Todd, Vaad, Vigil, Waller, Weissmann, Carroll T..

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF KIDNEY DISEASE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, RECOGNIZING MARCH AS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH AND MARCH 12, 2009, AS WORLD KIDNEY DAY.

WHEREAS, Healthy kidneys are essential to regulate the body by removing excess water and other chemicals from the blood, removing fluids, waste, toxins, and drugs introduced into the body, releasing hormones that regulate blood pressure, making red blood cells, and promoting strong bones; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-six million Americans suffer from chronic kidney disease and another 20 million are at risk; and

WHEREAS, At the end of 2007, there were 485,000 Americans receiving treatment for kidney failure, including 341,000 dialysis patients

and 136,000 with a functioning kidney transplant; and

WHEREAS, Each year, more than 70,000 Americans die from causes related to kidney failure; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 76,604 patients are awaiting kidney transplants and more than 2,373 are waiting for kidney-pancreas transplants; and

WHEREAS, A new name is added to the donor waiting list every 12 minutes and, each day, 18 people die while waiting; and

WHEREAS, There are 4,000 people in our region of Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming on dialysis; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 1,000 people in our region awaiting kidney transplants; and

WHEREAS, The two main causes of chronic kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure, which are responsible for up to two-thirds of the cases; and

WHEREAS, Each year, kidney stones result in more than one million physician office visits and nearly 177,496 hospitalizations, at a total cost of \$2.07 billion; and

WHEREAS, The National Kidney Foundation of Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming, Inc., has a health screening program for early identification of persons at risk of developing kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the National Kidney Foundation of Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming, Inc., is to prevent kidney and urinary tract diseases, improve the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases, and increase the availability of all organs for transplantation; and

WHEREAS, Early detection, including regular reporting of the Glomerular Filtration Rate calculation, which tells how much kidney function a person has and is currently the best indication of kidney disease staging, can help prevent the progression of kidney disease to kidney

failure, which requires continual dialysis or a kidney transplant to maintain life; and

WHEREAS, The cost of treatment for kidney disease patients is disproportionately higher than that of any other chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, Most patients who have end-stage renal disease rely primarily on Medicare and Medicaid to cover the costs of their life-sustaining care, which includes dialysis treatment, medications, laboratory testing, and, as necessary, transportation services to the dialysis facility, and as a consequence, any changes in Medicare and Medicaid eligibility significantly put them at risk; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That, in recognition of the worldwide significance of kidney disease as a public health problem, we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize March as National Kidney Month and March 12, 2009, as World Kidney Day;

(2) That we encourage members of the public to learn how to identify whether they are at risk for kidney disease, to learn how to lower that risk, and, if necessary, to take appropriate steps to delay the progression of kidney disease to kidney failure; and

(3) That we encourage people with diabetes and high blood pressure to be tested for kidney disease so that prevention and treatment can be effective in lowering their risk.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be sent to Judy Norman, Executive Director of the National Kidney Foundation of Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming, Inc.

Peter C. Groff
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Terrance D. Carroll
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES